



bay restoration commission

STEWARDS OF SANTA MONICA BAY

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4/28/2011

Ephraim Leon-Guerrero
U.S. EPA, Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
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Mr. Leon-Guerrero:

Attached is the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission's semi- annual progress report for the time period October 1, 2010 – March 31 2011. The Report addresses activities funded under the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation Agreement with U.S. EPA and match funds obtained from other sources including the State Water Resources Control Board, the State Coastal Conservancy, and among others.

In addition to the semi- annual progress report, the following deliverables are being provided on a media disk (CD):

WP Action/ Task	Deliverable
A	Prop 12 and 50 semi annual reports
I	BayWire
M	Governing Board, Executive Committee, Foundation Board of Directors, TAC Agenda Packages

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

Shelley Luce
Executive Director

our mission: to restore and enhance the santa monica bay through actions and partnerships that improve water quality, conserve and rehabilitate natural resources, and protect the bay's benefits and values



Task A – Oversee Prop 12, 50, 84 bond-funded grants

Summary:

Prop 50

Malibu Lagoon Restoration Project - Worked with Project Manager and State Water Board staff to secure time extension and amend various tasks in grant agreement. All permits have been secured by grantee. Construction is scheduled to begin in June 2011.

Malibu High School Rain Garden - Worked with Project manager to amend grant and secure time extension. RCDSMM has developed new plans for parking lot rain garden. Construction is planned for late summer/early fall 2011.

Baldwin Hills to Ballona Creek Treatment Train - Construction and post-construction water quality monitoring completed. Draft final report submitted for comment.

Prop 12

California red-legged frog Study - Grant agreement revised. State Parks has hired additional staff, and will now be able to continue grant management of the project. SMBRF will maintain supporting role (field work, reporting, etc.) instead of grant management.

Madrona Marsh Restoration - Final plans for pollution control and habitat restoration approved. City of Torrance has been provided a Notice to Proceed. The city will begin implementation during late summer.

City of Los Angeles Downspout Disconnect - The City completed the installation of 600 rain barrels at private residences and 10 planter boxes at commercial sites.

Rindge Dam Removal Study - State Parks has applied for additional funding from DFG to complete feasibility study.

Green Solutions Study final report was completed and received.

Ballona Creek Greenway Plan completed, including project designs and cost estimates, and posted on website and presented at public meetings.

Prop 84

Continue to negotiate grant agreements with City of Torrance, Inglewood, and Manhattan Beach.

Prop 84, Round 2 RFP was initiated in January and closed on March 16th. SMBRC received 11 applications which are now under review.

Deliverables:

Semi-annual progress reports

Next steps:

Continue to process project reports, invoices, etc. Monitor progress, and finalize grant agreements for Prop 84 projects. Carry out staff and TAC review of new Prop. 84 proposals.

Status:

On-going

Task B – Facilitate development and implementation of water quality regulations in the Bay watershed

Summary:

Ballona Wetlands Hydromodification TMDL – Participated and provided current site data for the development of the Ballona Wetlands hydromodification TMDL.

Ballona Creek/Estuary Toxics TMDL – Coordinated with the City of Los Angeles for monitoring toxics within the Ballona Creek Estuary. Review LA City monitoring methods and data and provided data collected by SMBRC staff within the Ballona Wetlands and Ballona Creek Estuary.

In addition, cooperated with the LARWQCB and secured lab services for Ballona sediment analyses.

Participated in the City of Malibu OSWT Task Force. However, the City postponed Task Force meeting recently to continue discussions with the LARWQCB regarding the septic prohibition.

Discussed upcoming MS4 permit with State and Regional Water Board and proposed SMBRC facilitation process for permit development.

Deliverables:

N/A

Next Steps:

Continue to compile and analyze technical information in support of the Ballona Wetlands hydromodification TMDL development.

Status:

On-going

Task C – Facilitate comprehensive watershed management and restoration, and restoration of priority wetlands

Summary:

C.1 Participation in LA IRWMP

IRWMP – Continue to attend local IRWMP meetings to monitor bond funding through the IRWMP process as well as monitor projects that would be considered for funding. Chaired an Open Space Subcommittee and developed the Open Space section for the RFP for the IRWMP plan update, to ensure that open space is adequately incorporated in the updated IRWMP plan.

C.2 Facilitation of Restoration Planning

Ballona Wetlands Restoration Planning/CEQA-NEPA – Submitted application to Corps Regulatory Division for 404 & 408 permits to initiate Corp involvement as Lead Agency for NEPA. Prepared & submitted draft NOP/NOI and supporting documents to DFG (CEQA Lead Agency) and Corps. Continued to refine project description and construction phasing in-house and working with consultant engineers. Conducted technical studies and surveys related to traffic impacts, engineering & construction feasibility, and special status species. Continued Native American consultation efforts and coordination with stakeholders, lead and responsible agencies.

Ballona Wetlands Baseline Assessment Program – Completed the first year of surveys in September, 2010. The draft annual report is complete and has undergone external peer-review. The SMBRC hosted and participated in the Ballona Wetlands Science and Research Symposium for 200 attendees at Loyola Marymount University in December, 2010.

Malibu Lagoon Restoration – Continued public outreach, assisted state parks with RFP for construction and seed collection/plant propagation, and refined monitoring plan per Coastal Commission comments. Met with several Coastal Commissioners to education about the project. Testified and/or presented information at Coastal Commission permit hearings and other public venues.

C.3 Facilitation of Stream Restoration

Stone Creek Restoration – Continued monthly community restoration program at University Lab School and UCLA. Hosted student-parent educational planting days and other special events.

Ballona Creek Greenway Plan – Completed Ballona Creek Greenway Plan including project designs and cost estimates, posted on website and presented at public meetings.

Arroyo Sequite Creek – This project was delayed due to State Parks internal administrative delays and had to be reworked. We finalized details on the proposal to remove two stream barriers and will bring for Governing Board approval in next quarter.

Zuma Creek – Developed and submitted proposal to Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors to work cooperatively to restore lower Zuma Creek.

Ballona Creek Watershed Historical Ecology Study– Data collection and mapping completed. Analysis and report layout/preparation in progress.

Ballona Creek Watershed Water Budget Study – Data collection complete. Initial conceptual model in development. Analysis and report layout/preparation in progress.

C.4 Facilitation of Watershed Management in Ballona Creek watershed

Lower Ballona Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study – Continued to participate in LBERFS TAC meeting to develop and guide HEP process. Continued to coordinate revisions to PMP and budget as well as assessments of cost share deliverables.

BCWTF – Continued to facilitate and coordinate Task Force meetings bi-monthly. Activities included developing presentation agenda, chairing meeting, and responding to members' requests for updates on activities throughout the watershed.

C.5 Implementation of LID Projects

Culver City Rainwater Harvesting Program – Completed project planning, received approval and MOU from Culver City, began implementation, including installation of rainbarrels and on-site outdoor water conservation consultations.

ARRA Ballona Creek Rain Gardens – Completed plans, received all necessary approvals and permits, and signed construction contract. Construction to begin in April 2011.

C. 6 Implementation of Climate Ready Estuary Program

Ballona Wetlands and Watershed model - reviewed existing models, consulted researchers at UCLA, developed strategy, and conducted researched existing precipitation and runoff data.

Deliverables:

N/A

Next Steps:

Complete the watershed studies and Malibu Lagoon restoration. Continue to coordinate Ballona wetland restoration planning and Ballona wetlands monitoring. Continue to implement on-going LID projects. Complete the CRE project.

Status:

Ongoing

Task D – Increase funding and/or develop new financing mechanisms for BRP implementation

Summary:

General – Continued to review potential NEP funding and worked with congressional staff regarding potential NEP funding in federal budget. Visited Congressional and Senate offices during the Spring EPA-NEP meeting in Washington DC. Followed up with congressional and senate staff and coordinated with other NEPs regarding federal budget.

Worked with state legislative staff to monitor pending legislation that could assist with funding the SMBRC. Visited state legislature for information exchange.

Ongoing monitoring of new/introduced state legislative efforts for potential funding and policy issues relevant to the SMBRC.

Financial Strategy Development – Worked with the EC workgroup. Consultant and staff team compiled and analyzed existing information on the SMBRF finance, as well as strategic financing efforts by similar organizations. The EC workgroup met two times and reviewed information, examined the current financial challenges, and explored a wide range of potential mechanisms for increasing the SMBRF's cash reserve. In response to recommendation of the workgroup, staff further developed the rationale for partner contributions by gathering information on the value and benefits that the organization provides to the Bay, and developing a conceptual proposal for further discussion by the EC workgroup.

Grant Applications

Applied for and received program development funding from California Sea Grant for projects related to subtidal rocky reef habitat restoration work.

Applied for coastal and marine spatial planning funding through the West Coast Governors Agreement on Ocean Health.

Applied for and received support from a partnership between The Nature Conservancy and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to expand abalone restoration efforts off of Palos Verdes.

Worked with MLGD Consultants to prepare grants for Ballona Wetlands Outreach and Education.

Deliverables:

N/A

Next Steps:

Complete the SMBRC Financial Strategy. Continue working with congressional staff to secure NEP funding. Continue to seek public and private funding opportunities

Status:

Ongoing

Task E – Facilitate and implement ecosystem-based protection, restoration, and management of the Bay’s marine habitats and resources

Summary:

MPA Outreach – Provided comments at Fish and Game Commission regarding implementation. Developed plans for outreach using existing SMBRC programs to put in place when MPAs are implemented. Developed MPA outreach info for dissemination by Boater Program activities.

MPA Monitoring – Participated in MPA Monitoring planning meetings. Discussed potential MPA monitoring proposals with SMBRC TAC/MRAC. Developed several proposals to the Marine Monitoring Enterprise for further MPA based socioeconomic and biological surveys.

Rocky Reef Restoration – Continued to work on obtaining necessary permits for restoration work. Identified sites for restoration. Designed restoration and monitoring plans to assess the success of restoration work. Developed method for applying sea urchin gonad index to restoration assessment.

Abalone Recovery Project – Worked with CA Department of Fish and Game, NOAA and NMFS on numerous efforts regarding abalone recovery and management plans for southern California.

Deliverables:

N/A

Next Steps:

Continue to conduct outreach for MPAs. Submit MPA Monitoring proposal by the April deadline. Continue to conduct and complete the sea urchin gonad index pilot study. Initiate and carry out the rocky reef restoration project. Continue to develop abalone recovery project.

Status:

In Progress

Task F – Inter-agency coordination, and involvement

Summary:

Clean Bay Restaurant Certification Program

Coordinated and managed of website and Facebook page updates, outreach, and program and inspection quality control and management. Promoted the Program, including dispensing brochures at local events, like Adventure 16's Enviro Film Showing and Farmers' Markets, and promoting the Facebook outreach page. Proposed a session featuring the program for the upcoming Headwaters to Ocean (H2O) Conference in May (accepted).

Ongoing expansion/improvement to program, including the further development of a marketing/advertising/media plan, and continued discussion and development of a potential partnership with the Aquarium of the Pacific's Seafood for the Future program in order to add a sustainable seafood element. Attended a sustainable seafood event at the Aquarium of the Pacific in order to observe/plan for a potential future program event of our own. Expansion

efforts also included the initial development of a territorial expansion of the program to potential partner cities outside of our watershed.

Completed discussions, drafting, and initial implementation of a certification revoking policy based on levels of observed violation.

Governing Board – Staff responded to state and local agency inquiries regarding SMBRC activities, governing board and executive committee issues, and status of governing board membership.

Continued work with FPPC on appropriate governing board reporting forms.

Legislative – Continued work with local Congressional staff to develop a House Member Organization to coordinate interest and efforts among federal legislators regarding watershed-related projects and issues.

South Bay Outreach – Continued participation at monthly meetings of Jurisdictional Group 5&6 (South Bay cities, LA County, CalTrans).

Deliverables:

N/A

Next Steps:

Continue work with legislative staff to coordinate on watershed-related projects and issues. Continue promotion of the restaurant program and develop the program session for the H2O Conference in May. Continue research of potential changes to the Restaurant Certification Program and continue efforts to build partnerships and expansion.

Status:

Ongoing

Task G – Implement the Comprehensive Bay Monitoring Program

Summary:

MPA Monitoring – See Task E.

Rocky Reef Regional Monitoring – Continue to participate in Bight' 08 rocky reef monitoring work group and the development of the final report, including a chapter on assessment of rocky reef conditions in Santa Monica Bay.

Regional eelgrass monitoring – Continue to participate in the compilation of the first report of the Southern California Eelgrass Monitoring Program. The final report is in progress and the recommendation from the ad hoc committee is to include the report in SCCWRP Bight Study 2013, and most significantly to prepare for new data collection for Bight 2018. Several other agencies participated in this effort: Port of Los Angeles, National marine Fisheries Service, US Navy, Army Corps of Engineers, Southern California Coastal Water Research Project, Los Angeles and San Diego Regional Water Quality Boards, University of California Santa Barbara, and California State Lands Commission.

State of the Bay Report-2015 – Continued to work with the TAC to identify topics for the 2015 State of the Bay Report, identify possible indicators, and compile the data streams. Completed

the issue paper and presented to the TAC on development of habitat health indices in Santa Monica Bay. As follow up to recommendations of the TAC, conducted research and held meetings with SCCWRP experts for development of an index framework for major habitats in the Bay. Initiated discussion and development of project for rocky intertidal habitat index development.

Deliverables:

N/A

Next Steps:

Continue working on possible indicator/index development.

Status:

Ongoing

Task H – Continue BRP implementation tracking, assessment, and reporting

Summary:

BRP Implementation Tracking – Determined appropriate options for developing a new BRP tracking database and located professional database help.

State of the Bay Report-2015 – See Task G.

Deliverables:

N/A

Next Steps:

Complete development of a new BRP tracking database.

Status:

Ongoing

Task I – Implement the SMBRC outreach strategy

Summary:

General – Outreach to Congressional staff on the local and DC level regarding SMBRC programs within congressional districts, with emphasis on establishing partnerships among Congressional members to support project funding and awareness.

Ballona Wetlands Outreach – Developed a program of monthly Open Houses hosted at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve and participated in two local Farmer's Markets per month for SMBRC and Ballona Wetlands Restoration Program outreach. Began the development of outreach materials for the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Program (e.g. tee shirts, stickers, and website material). Continued semi-monthly Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project e-newsletter.

Malibu Lagoon restoration outreach – Attended numerous meetings with stakeholders to discuss and clarify the project; conducted interviews with media; provided letters to editors of

local papers and blogs; and responded to inquiries from elected officials, agency staff and members of the public.

Urban Coast – Published Volume 2 Issue 1 of Urban Coast, the Center for Santa Monica Bay Studies science and policy journal.

Baywire – Developed and distributed the BayWire newsletter to stakeholders following each Governing Board meeting.

Conference Presentations – Presented at several scientific conferences on the Ballona Wetlands monitoring program and restoration, including: Restore America's Estuaries in Galveston, TX; Association of National Estuary Programs in FL; California Estuarine Research Society in San Diego, CA; and Southern California Academy of Sciences in Los Angeles, CA.

Deliverables:

BayWire

Next Steps:

Continue publication of BayWire and Urban Coast Journal on regular basis, as well as other outreach described above.

Status:

Ongoing

Task J – Oversee the PIE mini-grant program

Summary:

Projects (Round 8)

Completed the remaining two PIE projects - In October 2010, Ballona Creek Renaissance's Native Garden project held its final planting events (2), and from November 2010 - February 2011, developed and installed its educational signage. Final reporting and invoicing was completed in March 2011. For the Aquarium of the Pacific's Watershed Classroom Scholars program, all remaining invoicing issues were resolved, paid, and closed in February/March 2011.

All Round 8 projects were considered successful and many exceeded expected scope and participation as well as leveraged additional in-kind match.

Projects (Round 9)

Five grant awards, totaling \$29,300, were announced for Round 9 of PIE. Contracting was completed for four (out of 5) of the projects and project implementation began. The City of Manhattan Beach's Drought Tolerant Garden Demo project hosted its first planting and educational event in conjunction with the City's 10-10-10 environmental event, and planning began for its upcoming related workshops for spring 2011. South Bay Surfrider's Waste Characterization Study project began collecting, quantifying, and sorting trash from two storm drain outlets with the local students. Data gathering was largely completed and a brochure of findings was developed for distribution at upcoming events, mainly in April 2011 in conjunction with Earth Day. Marina del Rey Angler's Youth Fishing and Environmental Education program began its planning and preparations for its educational brochure/booklet to supplement its

youth fishing trips in summer 2011. Initial events for the County of LA (Department of Beaches & Harbors)'s Clean Harbors program are planned for April and May 2011.

Contracting for the final project, SEA Lab's Plankton or Plastic program, was nearly complete, with initial activities planned for April 2011.

Promotion/Outreach

Distribution of informational brochure about the PIE program to solicit additional funding sources and promote the program continued in this reporting period.

Deliverables:

N/A

Next Steps:

Continue to monitor progress, process reports and invoices, and encourage successful completion of milestones for the Round 9 projects. Continue distribution of the PIE brochure and pursue other means of funding for additional, future rounds of PIE projects.

Status:

In Progress

Task K – Participate in the PV Shelf Institutional Controls Program.

Summary:

FCEC Participation – Continued to participate in the message group and met two times via conference call to help the Fish Contamination Education Collaborative (FCEC) finalizing the design and language on pier signs for communicating the newly issued fish consumption advisories by OEHHA.

PV Shelf Superfund Investigation – Continue to participate in conference call organized by EPA to review survey forms developed for the seafood consumption study. Participated in Technical Information Exchange Group meeting.

Deliverables:

N/A

Next Steps:

Continue to participate and assist in FCEC and PV Shelf activities

Status:

On-going

Task L – Continue overseeing the Boater Education and Outreach Program

Summary:

Bilge pad exchange

Continued to manage locations in Marina del Rey and Long Beach harbors and worked to shift funding of the programs to local sources. Starting October 2011, Beach Harbor's Marine Bureau in the Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine will fund and oversee their harbor's exchange program. Met with the Bureau to discuss this transfer of responsibility, developed an Operator's Manual for the site. Began planning a summer 2011 Adopt a Fuel Dock Day for both Alamitos Bay Marine Fuel and Del Rey Landing.

General educational outreach campaign:

Dockwalker - Partnered with Boating and Waterways and Ca Coastal Commission to host three Dockwalker Volunteer trainings in Southern California specifically at San Diego, Port of Los Angeles, and Marina del Rey harbors. Partners included US Coast Guard Auxiliary, US Power Squadron, Cabrillo Marina, Bayside Marina, and Santa Monica Windjammers Yacht Club.

Boater Kits - Developed and coordinated production of 7,000 Boater Kits for 2011.

Boating Events – Participated four boating events: Marina Recreation Association Conference, Fred Hall Fishing and Tackle Show in Long Beach and Del Mar, and the Southern California Marine Recreation Association boat show in Los Angeles. During the events, collected a total of 317 California Boater Surveys.

Changing Tide - Published the Winter 2010 issue of Changing Tide and began coordinated of the Spring 2011 issue.

Southern California Boater's Guide - Distributed almost 3,000 Guides to volunteers, boaters, orders via announcements in the Changing Tide, and bulk orders for distribution at marinas and yacht clubs.

Pumpout Monitoring - Continued to monitor 66 Southern California pumpouts funded by Clean Vessel Act Grant Funds. Installed 17 hour meters and/or viewports at: Glorietta Bay Marina, Island Packers, Lido Marina Village, Peter's Landing Marina, Huntington Harbor Yacht Club, Los Alamitos Marina, Kona Kai, Mission Bay, Oceanside, American Legion Yacht Club, Balboa Bay Yacht Club, Santa Barbara, Ventura West Marina, and Ventura Harbor Marine Fuel. Created a summary of results for marina managers and partners.

Pumpout Maintenance Grant Program (Fix-it Grant) - Staff reached out to ten marinas that have difficulty keeping their pumpouts operational or diligently maintain their systems for public and mobile pumpout use. Enlisted five facility managers to participate in the Fix-it Grant program including: City of Long Beach, City of Newport Beach, Ventura Isle Marina, California Yacht Marina, and Panay Way Marina.

Program management and specialized outreach - Continued to manage grants, including creating progress reports and payment requests. Presented at the State Organization for Boating Access and National Estuary Program conferences.

Program expansion - Received Clean Vessel Act Grant from California Department of Boating and Waterways for coordinating and consulting with other local and regional boater education programs

Deliverables:

N/A

Next Steps:

Continue implementation of the program

Status:

Ongoing

Task M – Conduct general GB support, organizational management and reporting activities

Summary:

General – Continued with basic HR and accounting tasks.

Prepared agenda and organized staff reports for Executive Committee and Governing Board meetings. Responded to GB/EC member inquiries and issues.

Coordinated Foundation board meetings, including agenda preparation, staff report organization, et al.

Recruited a new administrative manager

Staff responded to state and local agency inquiries regarding SMBRC activities, governing board and executive committee issues, and status of governing board membership. *(Could go under I for outreach)*

Continued work with FPPC on appropriate governing board reporting forms.

Continued work with local Congressional staff to develop a House Member Organization to coordinate interest and efforts among federal legislators regarding watershed-related projects and issues

NEP Activities – Attended the Fall NEP Tech Transfer Conference and made presentations on trash TMDL, Ballona wetland monitoring, and boater educational program. Attended Spring 2011 ANEP meeting. Participated in ANEP Executive Committee's ad-hoc work group and developed recommendations regarding measuring and demonstrating NEP's involvement and contribution to CWA water quality regulatory program. Reviewed potential NEP funding and contacted congressional staff regarding potential NEP funding in federal budget. Followed up with congressional staff and coordinated with other NEPs regarding federal budget.

TAC and MRAC – Develop agendas for TAC and MRAC, keep meeting minutes, schedule and announce meetings

Deliverables:

Governing Board, Executive Committee, Foundation Board of Directors, TAC agenda Packages.

Next Steps:

Continue management and reporting activities.

Continue providing staff support for TAC and MRAC.

Status:

Ongoing